(h) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TOE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAjgALUD-DIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) The lifting of rice for the first. two months of 1993 and 1994 are as under:

(in lac tonnes)

	January	February
1993 . . .	7.63	7.27
1994 . . .	7.69	6.58

The offtake of rice in February, 1994 was lower as compared to January, 1994 as well as February, 1993.

(c) to (h) Lifting of foodgrains by consumer through PDS is dependent on factors such as open market prices and availability of rice, wheat and coarse grains. Data regarding offtake of rice for the PDS after February, 1994 is not available at present.

Central 'Government has not received any reports from State Governments regarding non-supply of kerosene to consumers through PDS. Bulk allocation of kerosene is made to the States for distribution to consumers. Actual distribution to consumers is a matter that falls under the administrative jurisdiction of State Governments.

The increase in the Central Issue Prices of foodgrains has been necessitated to partially neutralise the increases in Minimum Support Prices for paddy, wheat and post procurement operational costs. There is no proposal to review the Central Issue Prices of PDS at present.

Enhanced foodgrain supply through revamped PDS

4246. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have agreed to enhance foodgrain allocation to the States so that the revamped PDS outlets are able to make available 20 kgs. of foodgrains per head per month;

(b) if so, whether the recent increase in the prices of rice, wheat and sugar have forced the card holders to keep away from the PDS;

(c) if so, whether a large number of card holders have refused to draw the rice and wheat from the fair price shops;

(d) if so, whether 1782 blocks covering the population of almost 17 crores of the poor people were identified in 1992 under PDS;

(e) if so, whether allocation and offtake of foodgrains in these blocks have not been satisfactory;

(f) if so, whether the council was intimated that steps were also being considered to broaden the scope of supplies in these fair price- shops;

(g) if so, what are the areas that will be covered and brought to the PDS during 1993-94; and

(h) how many people will be covered by the end of 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUD-DIN AHMED) : (a) Bulk allocation of foodgrains are made to State Governments and U.T. Administrations for distribution through the Public Distribution System (PDS). State Governments and U.T. Administrations have agreed on a targeted minimum availability of 20 kgs. of foodgrains per month per family to the population living in the Blocks identified under the revamped PDS (RPDS). Allocations of PDS items are made taking into account the stocks in the Central Pool, *inter-se* requirements of States/UTs., procurement made and seasonal factors. PDS allocations are supplemental in nature and are not intended to meet the total requirement of any State/U.T. However, Central Govt decided to earmark an additional quantity of 2 million tonnes of food-grains per annum to enable the State Govemments/U.T. Administrations to make increased allocations to RPDS areas.

(b) and (c) The quantum of food-grains lifted in February, 1994 for PDS is higher than in the corresponding period in 1993, despite increase in the Central Issue Prices of foodgrains effected from 1-2-94. Levy sugar lifting is nearly 100%. Lifting of foodgrains through PDS is dependent on availability arid prices of rice, wheat and coarse grains in the open market.

(d) Yes, Sir. The estimated population in identified areas under RPDS Blocks (numbering 1752) is around 165 million.

(e) Information received from the State Governments and U.T. Administrations indicate that many State Governments are not making the allocations of foodgrains as per projected requirements for the RPDS areas due to various constraints. However, the per capita offtake of food-grains in RPDS areas is higher than in non-RPDS areas.

(f) As part of the RPDS scheme, State Governments/UT Administrations agreed to undertake distribution of additional commodities of mass consumption through the Fair Price Shops (FPS) according to local consumer needs and preferences. A number of States/UTs have reported distribution of iodised salt, tea, soaps and pulses through the FPSs in RPDS areas. The Advisory Council on PDS in its meetings reviews the progress in implementation of the RPDS.

(g) and (h) The entire country is covered by the Public Distribution System and the total population is eligible to PDS benefits.

P.D.S. facility only for needy people

4247. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :
SHRI DIGVUAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to provide facility only to needy people through public distribution system in the country;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated or whether Government have fixed criteria for the -classification of needy people; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the time by which the decision will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS1RY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUD-DIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) The Advisory Council on Public Distribution System (PDS) in its meeting held in March, 1993 set up a Committee of State Ministers for formulating recommendations regarding a National Policy on PDS focussing on the need to ensure larger and more meaningful quantities of PDS commodities to the needy and deserving sections of the society. One of the recommendations made by the Committee of State Ministers is as follows :—

> "In order to ensure that larger and more meaningful quantities of food-grains reach the relatively needy and poorer sections, it is inescapable that the relatively better off sections of the population are excluded from access to the PDS in respect of foodgrains."

So far. the Government has not taken any decision on the report of the Committee of Ministers and it is not possible to give any specific time frame for taking a decision since several aspects have to be considered in consultation with State Governments.

सुपर बाजार और केंद्रीय भंडार के मध्य वस्तुओं के मूल्य और उनकी गुणवत्ता में अन्तर

4248. श्रीमती चन्द्रिका अग्निमन्थम जैम : क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) अप्रैल, 1991 से 31 दिसम्बर, 1993 तक की अवधि के दौरान क्रमशः सुपर बाजार और केन्द्रीय भंडार को वस्तुओं के मूल्यों और उनकी गुणवत्ता के सम्बन्ध में उपभोक्ताओं से कितनी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि सुपर बाजार में वस्तुओं का विक्रय मूल्य केन्द्रीय भंडार की तुलना में कम है जबकि वहां पर बेची जाने वाली वस्तुओं की गुणवत्ता में प्रायः कोई अन्तर नहीं होता है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) इस पर सरकार ने अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की है; और